



Rhode Island Fully Vaccinated Guidance Update FAQ

May 18, 2021

What are the updated masking and physical distancing guidelines if you're fully vaccinated?

If you're fully vaccinated, you can go back to doing most of the things you did before the pandemic, including no longer wearing a mask and physical distancing. Even if you're fully vaccinated, you must still wear a mask and watch your distance:

- In businesses, establishments, or other entities that require it
- In schools and child care settings
- In healthcare settings like hospitals, doctors' offices, home healthcare, and nursing homes
- [On public transportation like planes, buses, and trains](#)
- [In US transportation hubs like airports and stations](#)
- In places that serve people experiencing homelessness
- In prisons and correctional facilities
- In other states, cities and towns, tribal nations, or territories that have different laws, rules, and regulations than the State of Rhode Island

Learn what else changes when you're fully vaccinated at covid.ri.gov/prevention.

What does it mean to be fully vaccinated?

Fully vaccinated means you've gotten all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine authorized by the United States (US) Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or World Health Organization (WHO) and more than 14 days have passed since the final dose.

What if I'm not fully vaccinated?

Continue to wear a mask and stay at least three feet apart from people you don't live with whether or not they're vaccinated.

Can I still catch and transmit COVID-19 if I'm fully vaccinated?

If you're fully vaccinated, there's a very small chance you can still catch COVID-19 and an even smaller chance you can transmit it.

What's considered a healthcare setting?

A healthcare setting is any place where healthcare is provided. This includes but is not limited to acute care facilities, long-term acute care facilities, inpatient rehabilitation facilities, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, home healthcare, vehicles where healthcare is delivered (e.g., mobile clinics), and outpatient facilities such as dialysis centers, physician offices, and others.

Do I need to carry proof of vaccination with me?

No, but businesses, organizations, and other entities – including government entities – can require you to show proof of vaccination. For this reason, it's a good idea to carry some type of proof you are fully vaccinated.

I run a business. Do I have to require proof of vaccination of my customers?

It's not a State requirement, but you can choose to implement it as a policy. If you would like to require proof of vaccination from customers or employees but are unsure about any legal issues, please consult with your attorney. Businesses may also choose to seek guidance from their merchants' association, chamber of commerce, or industry association.

What type of vaccination proof should I show to businesses or accept from customers?

Members of the public may choose to carry a physical or digital copy of their vaccination record in case they are asked to show evidence of vaccination. The official COVID-19 vaccination verification documents available in Rhode Island at this time include:

- Your COVID-19 Vaccination Record card
- A printed or digital photo of the front and back of your COVID-19 Vaccination Record card
- A printed copy or screenshot of your COVID-19 vaccination record page from Rhode Island's Vaccine Record Lookup Portal at portal.ri.gov/VaccineRecord

I run a business. What do the new masking and physical distancing requirements mean for my employees who are fully vaccinated and for those who are not fully vaccinated?

You and your employees must follow all requirements of [Executive Orders 21-54 and 21-55](#) and the [Safe Activities Regulations](#). As a business owner, you are allowed to have your own masking and physical distancing policy for your employees and customers that is stricter than Executive Orders 21-54 and 21-55. This means you can require employees and customers to wear masks and physically distance whether or not they're fully vaccinated.

What if my business is not quite ready to take the next step and no longer require masks or physical distancing?

As a business owner, you're allowed to have your own masking and physical distancing policies for your employees and customers that is stricter than Executive Orders 21-54 and 21-55. This means you can require employees and customers to wear masks and physically distance from others whether or not they're vaccinated. The State asks that business establishments, organizations, and other entities clearly communicate screening, masking, and physical distancing requirements at the entrance of their buildings to clarify policies that differ from State requirements.